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FILE

COUNTRY REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

REPORT NO. TDCS-3/519,291

SUBJECT KATANGA MILITARY FORCES STRENGTH AND TACTICAL PLANS IN CASE OF RENEWED HOSTILITIES

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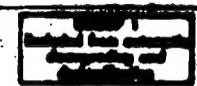
SOURCE

1. UNIFORMED AFRICAN SOLDIERS ACTUALLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED FOR COMBAT AND ORGANIZED INTO REGULAR KATANGA ARMY UNITS NUMBER LESS THAN 12,000. 9,000 OF THESE HAVE ARMS BUT AT PRESENT ARE NOT ISSUED WITH AMMUNITION (FIELD COMMENT: ACE 673 (TDCS-3/517,080) FROM OTHER SOURCES REPORTED A TOTAL OF 25,000 AFRICANS ON THE ARMY PAYROLL. THIS NUMBER PRESUMABLY INCLUDES SEMI-TRAINED IRREGULARS, THE SO-CALLED RURAL MILITIA AND MEMBERS OF TRIBAL MILITARY FORCES SUCH AS THE WARLIKE BAYEKES IN SOUTH CENTRAL AND EAST KATANGA; THE DISSIDENT BALUBAKAT FACTION UNDER CHIEF KASONGO NIEMBO IN THE KAMINA AREA AND THE BAHEMBAS IN NORTH KATANGA ALL OF WHOM ARE LOYAL TO THE KATANGA GOVERNMENT (GOK) AND NOMINALLY INTEGRATED IN THE ARMY OR ARE

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AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY-TYPE DUTY).

2. OF THE 12,000 A MAXIMUM OF 900 ARE PARACOMMANDOS INCLUDING RECRUITS NOW IN TRAINING. PARACOMMANDO UNITS OF 18-40 MEN EACH ARE PRESENTLY STATIONED IN KAMBOVE, KAPANGA AND KABONGO. LARGER PARACOMMANDO UNITS ARE LOCATED NEAR ELISABETHVILLE AT KEYBERG CAMP SOUTHEAST OF KENYA AND KATUBA NATIVE COMMUNES, KIPUSHI, LUENA AND KONGOLO. JADOTVILLE AND KOLWEZI ALSO HAVE LARGE PARACOMMANDO FORCES IN AND OUTSIDE THE CITIES. OPPOSITE THE OUTER UN PERIMETER OF ELISABETHVILLE AND ALONG THE ROAD TO JADOTVILLE, SMALL WELL-ARMED PARACOMMANDO UNITS EQUIPPED WITH LAND ROVER JEEPS ARE IN THE BUSH CONSTANTLY ON ALERT. THEIR POSITIONS ARE NOT VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD AND DURING TROOP AND TRANSPORT MOVEMENTS THEY AVOID ALL MAIN ROADS. THE MAIN PARACOMMANDO TRAINING CENTER IS NOW AT RUWE, 5-6 KILOMETERS NORTH OF KOLWEZI. HERE WHAT IS CALLED "PRELIMINARY TRAINING" IS GIVEN. PART OF THE TRAINEES ARE EVENTUALLY SELECTED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE "PARACOMMANDO ELITE" WHICH IS IMMEDIATELY READY FOR COMBAT DUTY. THE ELITE NOW INCLUDES ONLY 150 AFRICANS ALL OF WHOM HAVE BEEN INTENSIVELY TRAINED, ALSO IN THE KOLWEZI AREA, IN UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE TACTICS BY EUROPEAN MERCENARY INSTRUCTOR-SPECIALISTS. AFTER THIS TRAINING THEY ARE DISPERSED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND POSTED IN SMALL NUMBERS TO VARIOUS UNITS IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THEM. THEY ARE REGARDED AS UNUSUALLY EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE TROOPS. ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF PARACOMMANDO TRAINING KASONGO, OTHER

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PRELIMINARY TRAINEES ARE SELECTED TO GO TO FRANCE FOR FURTHER TRAINING; MANY ARE ALREADY IN FRANCE FOR THIS PURPOSE (FIELD COMMENT: APPR. 6.). KASONGO HIMSELF CONSTANTLY TRAVELS ABOUT KATANGA SEEING THAT THE SPECIALIZED MILITARY EDUCATION OF ORDINARY PARACOMMANDOS CONTINUES WHEREVER UNITS ARE POSTED.

3. THERE IS ALSO AN ALL-AFRICAN MOBILE BRIGADE OF 750 TROOPS WHO ARE WELL-TRAINED AND REGARDED AS DEPENDABLE AND COURAGEOUS. IT HAS SOME ARMORED CARS BUT THEY ARE CURRENTLY IN POOR CONDITION OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. FOR TRANSPORT THIS UNIT DEPENDS MAINLY ON LAND ROVERS, ITALIAN FIAT JEEPS, THAMSTRADER 6-WHEELED DIESEL TRUCKS (INITIAL 50) AND A FEW RENAULT TRUCKS AS DO OTHER TYPES OF ARMY UNITS.

4. REGULAR GENDARMERIE TROOPS ARE NOW STATIONED IN ELISABTHVILLE, KIPUSHI, KOLWEZI, TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE JADOTVILLE AREA AND THROUGHOUT THE BUSH. THEY ARE MOSTLY ARMED WITH BELGIAN RIFLES, SOME CZECH-MADE BREN GUNS CAPTURED FROM THE CONGO NATIONAL ARMY (CNA), BAZOOKAS AND MORTARS (FIELD COMMENT: SEE ACE 673 FOR OTHER TYPES OF ARMS AVAILABLE TO THE ARMY). GENDARMERIE TRAINING INSTALLATIONS ARE LOCATED IN KARAVIA 7 KILOMETERS FROM ELISABETHVILLE AND ON THE SHORE OF DELCOMMUNE LAKE NORTH OF KOLWEZI. THERE IS ALSO A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS TRAINING CENTER NEAR LE MARINEL HYDROELECTRIC INSTALLATION NORTH OF DELCOMMUNE. THE KARAVIA SCHOOL HAS A STAFF OF 7 AFRICAN OFFICERS WHO GIVE SOLDIERS INTENSIVE COMBAT INSTRUCTION.

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SEVERAL OF THE 27 AFRICAN OFFICERS WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TWO YEARS MILITARY TRAINING IN BELGIUM HAVE BEEN POSTED TO THE SCHOOLS NEAR KOLWEZI. MOST ARMY OFFICERS IN GENERAL HAVE RECEIVED MILITARY TRAINING IN BELGIUM.

5. AT PRESENT THERE ARE 135 FULL TIME PROFESSIONAL MERCENARIES OF WHICH THE FRENCH CONTINGENT INCLUDING FORMER OAS TERRORISTS FROM ALGERIA IS NUMERICALLY THE LARGEST FOLLOWED BY SOUTH AFRICANS AND BELGIANS. IN ADDITION THERE ARE MANY BELGIAN COLONS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO SERVE ON A PART TIME BASIS WITH BONAFIDE MERCENARIES (FIELD COMMENT: ACE 673 REPORTED A MAXIMUM OF 350 MERCENARIES. A EUROPEAN [REDACTED] ON 31 JULY QUOTED A SENIOR BELGIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN ELISABETHVILLE WHO HAS EXTENSIVE CONTACTS AMONG SENIOR AFRICAN OFFICIALS AND MILITARY LEADERS, EUROPEAN ADVISORS AND MERCENARIES AS ASSERTING THERE ARE 150 TRUE MERCENARIES IN KATANGA. IT IS CONCLUDED THAT THE OTHER 200 ODD ARE VOLUNTEERS, FOR THE MOST PART COLONS AND OTHER RESIDENTS OF KATANGA, WHO HAVE ACTUAL OR OSTENSIBLE CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS BUT SERVE PART TIME OR SPORADICALLY ON A FULL TIME BASIS AS PAID MERCENARIES). MERCENARIES ARE ORGANIZED AND OPERATE SEPARATELY FROM THE ARMY EXCEPT FOR A FEW IN NORTH KATANGA WHO ACT AS CADRES IN STRATEGIC AFRICAN TROOP GARRISONS. IN ADDITION TO THEIR REGULAR PAY ALL MERCENARIES NOW RECEIVE 2000 KATANGA FRANCS A DAY WHEN THEY ARE "ON MILITARY

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MISSIONS" (FIELD COMMENT: ACE 673 REPORTED THEIR REGULAR MONTHLY SALARIES TO BE 50,000 TO 100,000 FRANCS PAID BOTH IN LOCAL AND FOREIGN CURRENCY). POINTS OF MAJOR MERCENARY CONCENTRATIONS ARE THE KIPUSHI, ELISABETHVILLE, KAMBOVE, KOLWEZI, KABONGO AND KONGOLO AREAS. SEVERAL ARE ALSO HIDDEN IN THE BUSH AROUND THE UN-HELD TOWN OF NYUNZU IN NORTH KATANGA (FIELD COMMENT: APPR. 6). THIS DISTRIBUTION IS GENERAL AS THEY ARE CONSTANTLY MOVING ABOUT IN SMALL MOBILE UNITS AND SHIFTING THEIR BASE LOCATIONS. A FRENCH OFFICER, FNU BARON, WHO FORMERLY SERVED IN INDOCHINA BUT NEVER IN ALGERIA, HAS BEEN GIVEN OVERALL COMMAND OF MERCENARIES. ALTHOUGH HIS HEADQUARTERS IS IN KIPUSHI, HE IS NOW SPENDING MOST OF HIS TIME TRAVELLING ABOUT KATANGA INSPECTING HIS COLLEAGUES AND TRYING TO CONSOLIDATE HIS COMMAND STATUS (FIELD COMMENT: ACE 673 REPORTED A FRENCH COLONEL GARDY, WHO MAY ACTUALLY BE THE SAME MAN AS "BARON", HAD BEEN PROPOSED FOR THIS FUNCTION. DUE TO THE BITTER JEALOUSIES BETWEEN THE VARIOUS NATIONAL GROUPS, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE "COMMANDER" MUST GIVE HIS ATTENTION TO PERSUADING HIS COLLEAGUES TO ACCEPT HIM AS THEIR LEADER). JOSEPH SMAL, BELGIAN PROPRIETOR OF THE "BONNE AUBERGE" IN KOLWEZI USES HIS HOTEL AS A COORDINATION CENTER FOR MERCENARIES. HE STORES A LARGE QUANTITY OF ARMS THERE FOR THEIR USE. FOR RECOGNITION PURPOSES WHEN GREETING MERCENARIES SENT TO CONTACT HIM, HE KEEPS IN A CLOSED

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FRAME INSIDE THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HOTEL BAR A PICTURE OF HIMSELF DRESSED IN MERCENARY UNIFORM HOLDING A BOMB NEXT TO A KATANGA MILITARY AIRCRAFT. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BAR HE KEEPS A PICTURE OF BARON. MORALE AMONG TRUE MERCENARIES AND EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS IS CURRENTLY HIGH; THEY SUPPORT TSHOMBE WITH NO RESERVATIONS AND ARE CONFIDENT THEY CAN SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND KATANGA AGAINST UN OR CNA ATTACK.

6. THE PRESENT ACCENT WITHIN THE KATANGA AIR FORCE (KAF) IS ON TACTICAL USE OF PREDOMINANTLY SMALL AIRCRAFT. KAF STRATEGISTS VIEW JET AIRCRAFT AS TOO FAST FOR A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE KATANGA; ALSO KATANGA CAN NEVER HOPE TO MATCH JETS AVAILABLE TO THE UN WHICH CAN APPEAL TO THE WHOLE WORLD FOR REINFORCEMENTS IN EVENT ITS SUPERIORITY IN NUMBERS WAS CHALLENGED. THE KAF VIEWS ITS EXPERIENCE WITH SMALL AIRCRAFT DURING THE DECEMBER FIGHTING AS USEFUL; IT WAS ABLE TO DROP SMALL BOMBS EFFECTIVELY FROM LOW ALTITUDES AND OUTMANEUVER UN JETS. THE KAF PRESENTLY HAS THREE DOVES AND IS TRYING TO GET MORE (FIELD COMMENT: ACE 673 ALSO REPORTED TWO OR MORE DE HAVILLAND DOVE TWIN-ENGINE UTILITY TRANSPORTS AVAILABLE TO THE KAF). IT IS ALSO TRYING TO ACQUIRE MORE SMALL PLANES. PAUL GIRON, AN EX-BELGIAN AIR FORCE OFFICER AGED 55 AND MARRIED TO A BRITISHER, IS NOW IN KOLWEZI AND PLANS TO REMAIN THERE UNTIL OCTOBER ACTING AS AGENT/EXPEDITOR FOR AIRCRAFT PURCHASES AND

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DELIVERIES. AIRCRAFT ARE STAGED AND OPERATED FROM THE KIPUSHI AND KOLWEZI AIRPORTS; THE KAF ALSO DEPENDS HEAVILY ON USE OF NUMEROUS SMALL GRAVEL AND SAND-SURFACED AIRSTRIPS LOCATED IN THE BUSH THROUGHOUT KATANGA. IT DEPENDS PRIMARILY ON THE UNION MINIERE DU HAUT KATANGA (UMHK) WORKSHOPS AT JADOTVILLE TO FABRICATE, REPAIR OR INSTALL AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS. THE KAF NOW EMPLOYS 11 MERCENARIES AS PILOT PERSONNEL. MOST ARE BRITISH OR SOUTH AFRICANS PLUS TWO CANADIANS AND ARE BASED AT KOLWEZI. MOST PREVIOUSLY SERVED WITH THE RAF MANY IN SUDAN, UGANDA OR KENYA. TWO SUCH ARE JAMES W. HEDGES, A BRITISHER NOW IN KOLWEZI, AND PETER WICKSTEED, BORN IN BRITAIN OF SOUTH AFRICAN PARENTS, WHO GIVES HIS ADDRESSES AS B. P. O., KOLWEZI AND POSTE RESTANTE (GENERAL DELIVERY), KIPUSHI. ON OR ABOUT 10 JULY ALL MERCENARY PILOTS NOTIFIED THE GOK OF THEIR REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE BARON AS THEIR COMMANDER OR OBEY HIS ORDERS. THEY EXPLAINED ENGLISHMEN CANNOT WORK UNDER FRENCH COMMAND. THE KAF HAS ALLOWED THEM TO FORM THEIR OWN COMMAND OUTSIDE BARON'S JURISDICTION.

7. PRACTICAL OPERATION OF ARMY TACTICAL SIGNALS FACILITIES IS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MERCENARIES ALTHOUGH SENIOR AFRICAN OFFICERS ARE NOMINALLY IN COMMAND. ALL ARMY UNITS ARE EQUIPPED WITH "SAYT" WIRELESS RADIOS (FIELD COMMENT: APPR. 6). ONE SAYT INSTALLATION WAS OBSERVED IN THE ARMY TRAINING CAMP NEAR KOLWEZI;

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ANOTHER IS INSTALLED IN AN AMBULANCE EQUIPPED WITH A LARGE AERIAL JUST OUTSIDE KIPUSHI. AFRICAN SOLDIERS WERE OPERATING BOTH. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HOPES TO BE ABLE IN CASE OF HOSTILITIES TO MAKE USE OF KATANGA CIVIL AND UMHK TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES BUT EXPECTS THE UN WILL IMMEDIATELY CAPTURE OR RENDER THESE USELESS AS A PRIME MILITARY OBJECTIVE. THE MINISTRY HOWEVER IS COUNTING HEAVILY ON UMHK WIRELESS AND SIGNALS COOPERATION OUTSIDE ELISABETHVILLE IN AREAS NOT CONTROLLED BY THE UN. A STRONG INTERNATIONAL WIRELESS FACILITY HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN KOLWEZI; IT IS IN DIRECT STRONG CONTACT WITH KATANGA REPRESENTATIVES IN BRAZZAVILLE AND WILL BE USED AS THE GOK'S MAIN POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

8. ARMY STRATEGISTS BELIEVE THE RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WISH TO HELP KATANGA MILITARILY BUT ARE UNABLE TO DO SO OPENLY AND DIRECTLY. THEREFORE THE ARMY, WITH GOK COOPERATION, IS SEEKING BUSINESSMEN FROM THOSE COUNTRIES WHO CAN SETTLE TEMPORARILY IN KATANGA AND ACT AS INTERMEDIARIES IN BUYING AND SELLING MILITARY ITEMS AS THEIR OWN PROPERTY. GIRON IS THIS TYPE OF AGENT. THE ARMY HOPES TO OBTAIN ARMS, AMMUNITION AND AIRCRAFT FROM RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH THESE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES.

9. THE UMHK PROGRAM FOR PROTECTING THE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF ITS INSTALLATIONS HAS OVERT AND COVERT ASPECTS. UNIFORMED AFRICAN SECURITY GUARDS EMPLOYED BY THE COMPANY AND SUPERVISED BY EUROPEAN EMPLOYEES PROVIDE DAY TO DAY PROTECTION UNDER "PEACE TIME" CIRCUM-

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STANCES. UMHK ALSO HAS A SECRET STOCK OF LIGHT POWERFUL DEFENSIVE ARMS WITH AMMUNITION WHICH IT PLANS TO DISTRIBUTE TO ALL EUROPEAN AND SELECTED AFRICAN EMPLOYEES WHO ARE WILLING TO FIGHT TO DEFEND COMPANY MINES AND PLANTS IN CASE GENERAL HOSTILITIES ARE RENEWED. UMHK HAS NO PLANS FOR SABOTAGING ITS OWN PROPERTY. ON THE CONTRARY COMPANY OFFICIALS PRIVATELY ASSERT THEY PLAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO EXPAND EXPLOITATION OF MINES AND PROCESSING FACILITIES: THE COMPANY HOPES TO INSTALL A NEW COPPER REFINERY IN KOLWEZI. UMHK HAS ITS OWN PRIVATE VOICE RADIO IN JADOTVILLE WHICH HAS STRONG DIRECT CONTACT WITH BRUSSELS MANAGEMENT.

10. ON THE OTHER HAND ACCORDING TO MERCENARY SOURCES, THE GOK PLANS TO DESTROY ELECTRICITY-PRODUCING DAMS INCLUDING DELCOMMUNE AND LE MARINEL NORTH OF KOLWEZI IN CASE OF UN ATTACK OUTSIDE ELISABETHVILLE. PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED TO BLOW UP BOTH IN CASE OF THIS CONTINGENCY. MERCENARIES, INDIVIDUALLY SELECTED BY INTERIOR MINISTER GODEFROID MUNONGO, ARE PREPARED AT HIS PERSONAL ORDER ONLY TO IMMEDIATELY FIRST BLOW UP THE UPPER DAM WHICH WILL RELEASE A FLOOD OF WATER STRONG ENOUGH TO ALSO DESTROY THE OTHER DAM IN CASE IT IS NOT ALSO BLOWN. THE GOK REASONS THAT DAMS WILL BE REBUILT FAR FASTER (WITHIN AN ESTIMATED 4 YEARS) THAN CAN UMHK MINES AND PLANTS: IF LATTER WERE SABOTAGED IT WOULD TAKE MANY MORE YEARS TO REBUILD KATANGA'S ECONOMY. BECAUSE IT SERIOUSLY

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INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT THIS PLAN IF IT FEELS FORCED TO DO SO, THE GOK SEES NO NEED AND SO HAS NOT PLACED GUARDS ON THE DAMS. MERCENARIES PRIVATELY ASSERT THEY COULD ALSO EASILY DESTROY ALL UMHK MINES DESPITE UMHK OBJECTIONS. HOWEVER THEY AGREE WITH THE WISDOM OF THE GOK PLAN BECAUSE THEY HOPE TO EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE SETTLEMENT WITH THE UN AND REALIZE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE LITTLE WITH WHICH TO BARGAIN WERE UMHK ASSETS GONE.

11. ACCORDING TO A DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL, ARMY TACTICS IN TIME OF HOT WAR WITH THE UN WILL BE TO FORGET ABOUT ELISABETHVILLE WHICH IT DOES NOT WISH DESTROYED AND WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO DEFEND. INSTEAD ALL ROADS AND BRIDGES OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL WILL BE DESTROYED. THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN MINED AND CAN BE QUICKLY BLOWN UP. THE ACCENT IN ALL ARMY TRAINING SCHOOLS IS ON MAQUIS WARFARE AND GUERRILLA TACTICS. ARMY LEADERS ARE CONFIDENT THEIR TROOPS FIGHTING FROM THE BUSH, FROM AMBUSHES AND FROM EVERY TREE TOP, CAN ACTUALLY DESTROY UN FORCES WITHIN A SHORT TIME SHOULD LATTER COME OUTSIDE OF ELISABETHVILLE. THE ARMY IS ALSO PREPARING ITSELF FOR A LONG WAR IN CASE THE UN CHOOSES TO REMAIN IN STRENGTH INSIDE ELISABETHVILLE. KATANGA TROOPS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED SO AS TO COMPLETELY SURROUND THE UN CITY DEFENSE PERIMETER. THE ARMY ALSO CONSIDERS LUENA AN IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POINT FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK IN FORCE ON THE UN-OCCUPIED AIR BASE AT KAOIMA (FIELD

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COMMENT: SEE ACE 673 FOR A SIMILAR EXPRESSION OF THE KATANGA
TACTICAL PLAN FOR CONDUCTING BUSH WARFARE).

12. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, CINCLANT/5.

END OF MESSAGE

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